corrective measures on 28.7.2000. Departments/Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperation, Consumer Affairs, Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Information Technology, Chemical and Petro-chemicals, Fertilizers, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Animal Husbandary and Dairying have been represented in the Group. The Group is to make its recommendations before the end of the year.

Scope for Export of Marine Products

1556. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the scope of export of marine products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to draw up a perspective plan to tap the vast potential of the marine industry for export particularly in shrimp acquaculture?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per assessment of the Government, there exists considerable potential for further increasing the export of marine products from India. The thrust areas are (i) increasing coverage of area under acquaculture (ii) increasing share of value added products (iii) modernisation of processing plants including equipment and machinery (iv) prevention of disease in shrimp farms (v) improvement of marine products industry related infrastructure and (vi) improving the quality of marine products exported from India etc.

(c) There docs exist a strategy to augment the export of marine products from India but an exercise has been started again to frame indicative medium term plans for overall export strategy including shrimp acquaculture for the period 2001—2006.